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10 June 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

SUBJECT : Preliminary Comment on
Flown on 4 June 1963

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1. This mission, flown over the strategic Szechuan Basin area in South China, was designed primarily to round out our current photo-reconnaissance collection program on the Chinese Communist advanced weapons program. This mission, together with [redacted] has given us fair to excellent photography of the most likely areas along [redacted]

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Military

3. Several major military airfields were covered by this mission. 50 MIG jet fighters were photographed at Tato airbase, about 5 miles south of Changsha. Tato field, which the Chinese Communists constructed in the early fifties.

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4. Good photography was obtained for the first time of Leiyang airfield--one of three active

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jet bomber bases south of the Yangtse River. This base was the former home station for the IL-28 (Beagle)-equipped

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18 Beagle jet light bombers, probably a stay-behind contingent, were identified at Leiyang on this mission. There was no evidence that any attempt is being made to expand the facilities at this field.

5. The Chekiang Army Barracks, consisting of nearly 300 troop buildings, was observed near the Hengyang rail junction in south-central China. This installation probably houses

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Industry

6. Photographic coverage of an airframe plant at Chengtu was again provided. The plant is obviously not in production--the adjacent airfield has deteriorated markedly and is probably no longer serviceable. Of the five major aircraft production facilities identified in Communist China, only one--a light transport plant at Nanchang--is known to be in production, and it operates at a much reduced scale from the banner years of 1959 and 1960.

7. The Hsiangtan Iron and Steel Plant, was covered by the mission. There was no apparent change in facilities except for continuing construction on a single open-hearth furnace. Only a coke by-product plant appears active. Construction of this medium-sized iron and steel plant was started

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8. A fairly large complex, initially detected at Teyang, about 30 miles northeast of Chengtu, was again photographed. It consists of approximately eleven light fabrication and processing buildings, several open storage areas, and a housing area.

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we are unable to determine when construction started at this site although it would appear to have been recently begun.

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